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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

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## U. S. Crop Volume 2nd Largest

The second largest volume of crops in history was produced in 1952, despite drought in a large part of the country. Harvested acreage of 341 million acres was about 5 million more than in 1951 but was smaller than average. Composite yield, at 150 percent of the 1923-32 base, tops all years except 1948 when the index was 152. Nearly ideal weather permitted rapid harvest for small grains and later-maturing crops. The quality of corn, soybeans, and other late-growing crops was generally excellent.

### Drought Reduces Hay Crops, Aids the Harvest

A summer drought, which began in Southern Missouri and Arkansas and spread first in an easterly and south-easterly direction and then into Kansas and the Southwest, affected chiefly hay, forage and feed crops. Except in the drought area, the season was nearly ideal for corn and soybeans. The mild, dry fall was favorable to ideal for harvest generally, reducing harvesting losses and improving quality of crops.

### Corn

The estimated 3,307-million-bushel corn crop is the Nation's second largest (it was 3,605 million bushels in 1948). Current crop is 14 percent larger than the 1951 crop and 10 percent greater than average. Estimates include, in addition to corn for grain, the grain equivalent of corn harvested for silage and fodder, also that used for hogging and grazing. The increase in production over 1951 is due to both a larger harvested acreage and higher yields per acre. The 1952 yield per acre is 40.6 bushels per harvested acre, second only to the 42.5 bushels in 1948. Much 1952 corn was shelled for market direct from the field, indicating the generally high quality and low moisture content.

### Wheat

Production of all wheat is the third largest in history, topped only by the crops of 1947 and 1948. The estimated 1,291 million bushels compare with 981 million bushels in 1951 and the average of 1,085 million bushels. Abandonment and diversion in 1952 amounted to 6.9 million acres, compared with 16.6 million acres not harvested for grain in 1951. The total acreage harvested for grain was nearly 15 percent larger than in 1951.

### Cotton Estimate 15 Million Bales

The cotton crop now estimated at 15,038,000 bales, is nearly the same as last year's production and compares with the 10-year average of 11,775,000 bales...Cotton acreage (in cultivation July 1) at 26.5 million acres, was down 5 percent from a year earlier...Yield per acre, 288.4 pounds, is up by 16.5 pounds from last year and is 20.8 pounds above the 10-year average.

### Cottonseed May Be Close to 1951 Output

Based on past ratios of lint to seed, cottonseed production is expected to be about 6.1 million tons. This would compare with 6.3 million tons in 1951. (No official cottonseed estimate will be made until after the crop is all ginned.)

### Record Crops of Rice and Oranges

Only two crops--rice and oranges--contributed record production to the large 1952 crop volume. But second

largest records were made by corn, winter wheat, soybeans, sugarcane for sugar and seed, hops, and grapes. Crops that were larger than average included cotton and cottonseed, popcorn, all hay, alfalfa seed, and tobacco.

Very small volumes of rye, buckwheat, sorghums for grain, silage and forage, dry peas, velvetbeans, sweet-potatoes, sorgo and sugarcane sirup were produced.

### 7 Percent More Feed Grain Than in 1951

About 120.7 million tons of feed grains were harvested in 1952, nearly 7 percent more than in 1951, and fifth largest on record. It is far short of the record 135.4 million tons in 1948, but the crops of 1942, 1946, and 1950 exceeded it by only narrow margins. The total feed grain tonnage is adequate for 1952-53 feeding needs and may permit an increase in carryover stocks of corn that will more than offset probable decreases in carryovers of the other three feed grains.

### Oilseeds Near Record

The 1952 total tonnage of oilseeds almost equals the 16,570,000 tons last year and is more than a quarter larger than the average tonnage. Soybeans account for more than half the total. Soybean production, estimated at 291.7 million bushels, has been exceeded only by the 299.3 million bushels harvested in 1950.

### More Food Grains

Production of the 4 food grains in 1952 totaled 41.7 million tons, exceeded only by the 43.4 million tons in 1947, although nearly equalled in 1948. In 1951 the total was only 32.4 million tons.

### Sugar Beets and Sugarcane

Production of sugar beets is estimated at 10.2 million tons--about 3 percent below the 1951 crop. Sugarcane for sugar and seed at 7.1 million tons is 17 percent larger than the 1951 crop.

## PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	Oct. 15 1952	Nov. 15 1952	Nov. 15 1952
Wheat, bu. ....dol.	2.07	2.13	2.44
Corn, bu. ....dol.	1.53	1.45	1.77
Peanuts, lb. ....ct.	11.1	10.8	13.2
Cotton, lb. ....ct.	1/ 36.77	1/ 34.05	34.22
Potatoes, bu. ....dol.	2.11	2.17	1.73
Hogs, 100 lb. ....dol.	18.60	16.70	21.00
Beef cattle, 100 lb. ....dol.	22.00	21.30	20.70
Veal calves, 100 lb. ....dol.	23.80	23.60	23.10
Lambs, 100 lb. ....dol.	22.20	20.90	22.70
Butterfat, lb. ....ct.	2/ 71.2	2/ 69.1	75.0
Milk, whsle., 100 lb. ....dol.	2/ 4.95	2/ 3/ 4.89	4.72
Chickens, live, lb. ....ct.	24.2	26.4	31.8
Eggs, doz. ....ct.	2/ 43.1	2/ 44.4	50.4

1/ American upland cotton.

2/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

3/ Preliminary.



## Other Estimates, with Comparisons

Crop	Unit	1952	1951	Average
Oats	Mil. bu.	1,268	1,321	1,311
Barley	do.	227	254	306
Rye	do.	16	21	28
Buckwheat	do.	3	3	7
Flaxseed	do.	31	35	38
Rice	1,000 bags 1/	49	46	33
Sorghum grain	Mil. bu.	83	160	133
Cottonseed	1,000 tons	6,108	6,286	4,781
Hay (all)	Mil. tons	104	108	101
Beans, dry edible	Mil. bags 2/	16.8	17.3	18.0
Peas, dry field	do.	2.6	3.8	6.0
Peanuts picked & threshed	Mil. lbs.	1,365	1,676	2,042
Potatoes	Mil. bu.	348	321	415
Tobacco	Mil. lbs.	2,207	2,331	1,842

1/ Bags of 100 lbs. 2/ Bags of 100 lbs. (uncleaned).

### Above-Average Fruit Crop

The fruit crop, including deciduous and miscellaneous fruits, and the 1952-53 citrus crop, totals nearly 16,200,000 tons, 5 percent less than in 1951, but slightly above average. Here is a run-down of the principal fruit crops:

Fruit	1952	1952 compared with --	
		1951	10-year av.
Apples	92,696,000 bu.	down 16%	down 16%
Peaches	62,746,000 bu.	down 1%	down 8%
Pears	30,744,000 bu.	up 2%	up 1%
Grapes	3,159,900 tons	down 7%	up 13%
Oranges, early & midseason	58.8 mil. boxes	up 3%	up 23%
Oranges, Valencia	62.8 mil. boxes	up 3%	up 15%
Grapefruit	38.4 mil. boxes	down 5%	down 25%
Lemons	13.1 mil. boxes	up 2%	up 4%
Sweet cherries	99,630 tons	up 39%	up 8%
Sour cherries	118,350 tons	down 25%	up 20%
Cranberries	796,000 bbls.	down 13%	up 3%
Apricots (3 States)	175,000 tons	down 4%	down 23%
Pecans	123,638,000 lbs.	down 20%	(no change)

### Less Milk in 1952

Milk production, favored by liberal feeding and mild late fall weather, held up unusually well during November. But the 106.7 billion pounds produced in the first 11 months of 1952 totaled about a billion pounds less than in the same period a year earlier. Total 1952 production will be close to 114.5 billion pounds.

### Egg Production Up

Egg production during first 11 months of 1952 totaled 56.4 million eggs, 3 percent more than in 1951 and 12 percent above the average.

### Supply of Hay Seeds Ample

1952 production of the 6 important hay-seed crops totals nearly 483 million pounds of clean seed. This is 15 percent larger than the 1951 crop and 6 percent larger than the 1941-50 average. Alfalfa-seed production set a new high record, but lespedeza is the smallest in 12 years; timothy seed is second smallest in 18 years.

### Potato Crop Below Goal, but Larger Than in '51

Potato production of 347,504,000 bushels is a little short of National goal of 350 million bushels but is 8 percent larger than last year's short crop. The 1941-50 average production was 414,525,000 bushels.

### More Meat Produced

Commercial meat production during first 10 months of 1952 was 6 percent larger than same period in 1951.

During the period mutton and lamb production was up 24 percent; beef production, up 9 percent; veal, up 8 percent; pork, up 1 percent.

### Less Vegetables for Processing

1952 production of 11 vegetables for processing is estimated at 6,549,200 tons, 9 percent less than in 1951, but 20 percent above the 1941-50 average.

### New-Crop Winter Wheat and Rye

Winter wheat for the new crop has been sown under unfavorable conditions. Seeded acreage is estimated at 55.4 million acres, only 1 percent below the acreage year ago, and 10 percent above the 1941-50 average. Summer and fall precipitation has been at a low level...progress of the crop to December 1, the least satisfactory in many years. A 1953 winter wheat crop of 611 million bushels is indicated. This would be 24 percent below average. Rye sown for all purposes in the fall of 1952 is estimated at 3.3 million acres, nearly 7 percent more than last year, but about one-fourth less than the 10-year average...Condition close to the lowest of record.

### High Level Business Activity

Economic activity has continued high this fall with record production—both farm and factory—meeting a strong demand. High employment, rising wage rates and a longer work week are contributing to record consumer incomes.

### Prices Paid and Received by Farmers

Prices paid by farmers (including interest, taxes, and wage rates) continued relatively high in November...averaged only 1 percent lower than in November last year, and only about 3 percent below the all-time high reached in April and May of this year. Prices received, on the other hand, were down 8 percent from a year earlier...For the first time in more than 2 years, farmers' prices in November averaged 1 percent below parity.

### Higher Total Employment; Farm Workers Down Seasonally

Number of civilians without jobs in November was down to 1.4 million. This compares with 1.8 million year ago and 2.2 million two years ago. Total civilian employment in November was 62.2 million. Compares with 61.3 million year ago. The total of 8.3 million persons working on farms in late November is a seasonal drop of 3 million from a month earlier and is down from a year ago by about a half million.

## CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	Nov. 1952
Prices received by farmers....	'10-14=100	277
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & farm wage rates.	'10-14=100	281
Parity ratio.....	'10-14=100	99
Wholesale prices of food .....	'10-14=100	1/ 282
Retail prices of food.....	'10-14=100	I/ 300
Farm wage rates .....	'10-14=100	2/ 499
Weekly factory earnings.....	'10-14=100	I/ 616
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-Nov. 1951	Jan.-Nov. 1952
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	107.8	106.7
Eggs, (bil.).....	54.6	56.4
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	3/ 5297	5887
Lamb & mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	3/ 384	477
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	3/ 9053	9095
All meats (dr. wt., mil. lb.)....	3/ 15221	15983

1/ October figure.

2/ September 1, adjusted for seasonal variation.

3/ Jan.-Oct. under Federal inspection.